



Arizona Department of Public Safety Crime Victim Services Newsletter

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National Stalking Awareness Month



Crime Victim Services
www.azvictims.org

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The mission of the Arizona Department of Public Safety's Crime Victim Services Unit is to effectively administer VOCA Assistance funds by ensuring appropriate and accessible services are available to crime victims, enhancing the delivery of those services through technical assistance, training opportunities, and promoting a continuum of care for every victim in every community.



MORRISON INSTITUTE
FOR PUBLIC POLICY
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

New research from ASU's Morrison Institute for Public Policy presents the views and voices of more than 800 Arizona street-level officers and their supervisors from throughout the state. The study is one of the largest ever undertaken in Arizona and even across the U.S. The research was done on behalf of the Governor's Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women, Arizona Department of Public Safety, and the Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board (Arizona POST). The 66 page report combines survey data with dozens of comments from officers and supervisors.

Arizona, like most states, has laws and policies that bolster law enforcement officers' arrest powers in domestic violence cases and require them to arrest suspects under certain circumstances.

Layers of Meaning shows how officers feel about the "criminalization" of domestic violence.

The study's major findings include:

- The vast majority of Arizona officers consider

domestic violence to be a serious, underreported problem that generates other crime and violence and contributes to a variety of costly issues affecting families, children, neighborhoods, schools, and employers.

- Nearly all officers accept the view of domestic violence as a "real crime" that warrants police intervention—having shed past "traditional" views that considered domestic violence to be a private family matter.
- Officers are split in the support for Arizona's "pro-arrest" policy, with many not believing that it reduces future domestic violence.
- Many officers struggle to understand domestic violence victims' actions and attitudes, sympathizing with their plight yet questioning some of their behaviors and outlooks.
- Officers recognize the burdens faced by overworked prosecutors, yet voice frustration with what they perceive to be a lack of follow up by prosecutors. Officers fear that too little prosecution lessens the impact of arrest, discourages victims, emboldens batterers, and spreads cynicism among officers themselves.
- Officers are split over whether more training is needed, although the study's findings suggest that needs do exist in sev-

eral areas.

- Frustration for officers comes from a variety of factors, including the high number of repeat calls, the infrequency with which victims prosecute or leave the abusive relationship, and the perceived lack of effective follow-up by the entire criminal justice system.

These findings show that the years of effort to promote recognition of domestic violence as a serious criminal matter have paid off. At the same time, however, officers' frustration leaves many resigned to the conclusion that intervening at a domestic violence scene will at best protect the victim for simply that one night. Arizona's frontline officers take domestic violence seriously and witness its devastating effects on families and neighborhoods. They recognize that it is a problem that makes other community issues worse, and they want to do their part. But officers also feel themselves caught between a number of conflicting forces and isolated in their efforts. As one detective put it: "We can't do it alone." Arizona's police officers and sheriff's deputies form the state's frontline in responding to and reducing domestic violence. But it is an assign-

ment impossible to do alone. Community institutions, criminal justice institutions, residents, and policy makers have important parts to play. All Arizonans can help ensure that "first responder" does not mean "only responder." To review this report and other reports visit: www.morrisoninstitute.org

Fiscal Year 06/07 DPS VOCA Award Process

The FY 2006/2007 DPS VOCA application process announcement will soon post to www.azvictims.org. This year approximately \$8.4 million is available for all projects and it is anticipated that 115 projects will be funded. A pre-application conference will be scheduled for late February 2006. Pre-application attendees must register on-line through the WAGS System once the application announcement posts.

Victims' Rights



As a DPS-VOCA sub-recipient, it is a contractual requirement that non-criminal justice agencies ensure that all DPS-VOCA funded staff and their first line supervisor receive victims' rights training from a criminal justice agency.

The Arizona Attorney General's Office of Victim Services has designed an interactive Victims' Rights training program specifically for non-profit agencies that will assist in meeting this requirement. The final spring 2006 training has been scheduled for April 18th. There is no fee, but prior registration is required.

Classes may fill up quickly, so early registration is recommended. Contact Crystal Reidy (602) 542-8456 or e-mail to: OVSTraining@azag.gov.

2005 DPS/CVS Annual Performance Report

DPS/CVS recently filed their 2005 Annual Performance Report with the Federal Office for Victims of Crime. The Arizona Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Assistance program reported that 47,258 unduplicated victims were served during 2005. Listed below is the breakdown by victim type:

- ◆ 1,714 Child Abuse (physical)
- ◆ 3,355 Child Abuse (sexual)
- ◆ 1,023 DUI/DWI crash victims
- ◆ 25,052 Domestic Violence
- ◆ 2,026 Adult Sexual Assault
- ◆ 340 Elder Abuse
- ◆ 564 Adults Molested as Children
- ◆ 1,165 Survivors of Homicide Victims
- ◆ 676 Robbery Victims
- ◆ 3,279 Assault Victims
- ◆ 8,064 Victims of Other Crimes

To review Arizona's report, or reports from other states, go to: www@ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/fund/state.htm

Training Opportunities

Feb 15-17, Los Angeles Training Institute of the National Center for Victims of Crime at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel. Participants will hear about a research study of 1,005 stalkers in North America, types of technology used

to stalk victims, the impact of stalking on victims and strategies for victim-directed safety planning. For more information call (202) 467-8700 or visit: www.ncvc.org.

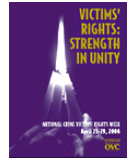
Mar 30-31, 4th Statewide Sexual Assault Conference at the Black Canyon Conference Center, Phoenix. A full range of workshops on tracks ranging from prevention, advocacy and cultural sensitivity to law enforcement and prosecutorial response to social marketing and communications will be provided. Featured keynote speakers are Alan Berkowitz, Raquel Bergen and Calvin Terrell. For more information call (928) 445-5038 or visit, the Prevent Child Abuse Arizona website: www.pcaaz.org

June 4-9, 2006 Arizona Victim Assistance Academy (AVAA) offers a rare opportunity to live, work, study and interact with victim service providers from all areas of advocacy at the Radisson Woodlands, Flagstaff. Applications are due February 28, 2006. For more information contact Katrisha Stuler, Academy Project Director at (480) 539-7476 or e-mail: AVAA@cox.net

Upcoming Events

Feb 14, 3rd Annual Stop Violence Against Women Day at the Arizona State Capitol, Senate Lawn, 1700 W. Washington. The event is being coordinated by volunteers for and representatives from the Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Arizona Sexual Assault Network. For more information, please call Dale Wiebusch at (602) 279-2900.

2006 National Crime Victims' Rights Week



Apr 23-29, This year's theme — Victims' Rights: "Strength in Unity" pays tribute to crime victims and survivors who, for many decades, have joined together in mutual support and advocacy to promote victims' rights and services. It also recognizes the ongoing efforts of countless victim service providers, justice professionals, and allied professionals and volunteers who selflessly dedicate their lives to helping victims of crime. For more information visit:

www.ojp.usdoj.gov

Introductory Community Outreach Program

The Heart Wings Program is a unique support group for children ages 3-10 and families who have lost a parent, sibling or other family member to violent death or homicide. Heart Wings offers education, emotional support and trauma-focused art therapy and play to promote family healing.

Look forward to reading about this program in our March 2006 newsletter agency spotlight!



We always welcome input for articles in our quarterly newsletter. Forward ideas to your grant coordinator.